

for their cosponsorship of this important legislation.

Today I stand with a heavy heart and great pride to honor the life and legacy of Omaha native, Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson.

On October 1, 2011, Petty Officer Nelson gave his life in service to his country when he was killed on a combat patrol by an explosive device that struck his vehicle in Zabul province, Afghanistan. His selfless and courageous service to our country will never be forgotten. Though we cannot repay the ultimate sacrifice that Petty Officer Nelson made while protecting our Nation, his legacy will now have a permanent physical memory through H.R. 4975.

This legislation will designate the post office located at 5720 South 142nd Street, near my home in Omaha, Nebraska, as the Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building.

Our Nation is defended by men and women who sacrifice to keep us free, protect our liberty, and strengthen our country. We have lost many brave men and women who have left this country to protect our life, and I am proud and humbled to stand here before this House to honor the life and bravery of one of those men today.

Petty Officer Nelson entered the Navy in the engineering career field and graduated from boot camp on October 11, 2005. After graduating from Navy technical training, Petty Officer Nelson was accepted to attend Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL training. He graduated from SEAL training in November 2006.

As a member of the elite team of Navy SEALs, Petty Officer Nelson continued to serve his country as a seasoned combat veteran, with a deployment to Iraq in 2009, and a deployment to Afghanistan in March 2011.

Petty Officer Nelson's awards and decorations speak to his selfless heroism. These awards include the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, NATO Service Medal, Expert Rifle Ribbon, and Expert Pistol Ribbon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ASHFORD. To those who knew Petty Officer Nelson best—his parents, wife, and two sons—he will be remembered as a loving son, husband, and father. To his fellow Navy SEALs, he will be remembered as a cherished teammate and a gifted SEAL operator. To this country, he will be remembered as an embodiment of the Navy's motto: "Not for self, but for country."

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the courage and the

valor exhibited by Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb Nelson and honor the ultimate sacrifice he made.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4975.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4975.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4761

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, shall be known and designated as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4761, introduced by Congresswoman JUDY CHU of California.

Louis Van Iersel's story is an unbelievable one. Louis came to the United States from the Netherlands, and he served his new home with fervor. On his first day in the United States, he enlisted in the Army and soon after

was deployed to Europe as part of World War I. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving hundreds of Americans' lives during the war.

At the start of World War II, Louis tried to enlist in the Army alongside his sons, but he was turned away because of his age.

So what did he do?

He enlisted with the Marines instead. Through his life, Van Iersel truly wanted to serve the United States, the country he adopted as his home.

I urge Members to support the bill to name a post office in Van Iersel's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Louis Van Iersel, a decorated veteran of both World Wars, by offering a bill to designate the U.S. Post Office in the city of Sierra Madre, California, the Louis Van Iersel Post Office.

Sergeant Van Iersel was the true embodiment of an American hero. An immigrant from the Netherlands, his acts of heroism began even before he set foot on American soil. On his voyage to the United States in 1917, he assisted in the rescue of 27 shipwrecked British soldiers torpedoed by a German vessel.

On the very day he arrived in the United States, Mr. Van Iersel registered for the draft and enlisted in the Army. He didn't speak a word of English, but he learned while working in the Army kitchen. He was eventually assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and was deployed to France at the end of World War I.

It was in France that Mr. Van Iersel showed extraordinary heroism time and time again. He first gained notice when he and a comrade braved German gunfire to carry 17 soldiers to safety. He was then promoted to sergeant, when he led a small reconnaissance patrol and found enemy trenches. It was there that he was able to use his native language of German to infiltrate them and convince the officer in charge to surrender 60 German soldiers.

From there, Mr. Van Iersel increased his efforts to gain information on German troop movements. In one particularly treacherous situation, Mr. Van Iersel braved heavy fire to swim across the icy Seine River. He overheard German soldiers discussing a heavy artillery barrage that would have wiped out the whole American battalion.

With this critical information, he swam back across the river and reported his findings, enabling the American troops to take cover before the attack began. Because of his actions, he saved 1,000 American lives. For all his efforts, he was awarded dozen of medals, including two military medals, the French Croix de Guerre and the American Medal of Honor. These are the

highest honors that both countries can bestow.

At the end of the World War I, Mr. Van Iersel moved to the city of Sierra Madre, California, in my district. He became a citizen, got married, and started a family. But then World War II broke out, and Mr. Van Iersel knew he could not sit idly by. He and his three sons all reported to the Army to enlist and to serve their country. But Mr. Van Iersel was turned away, because the Army told him he was too old to serve.

While he would not let this stop him, undeterred, Mr. Van Iersel talked his way into the Marine Corps. He served with the 3rd Marine Division in the Pacific, and safely returned home in 1945.

Mr. Van Iersel passed away at the age of 93. But as a longtime resident of Sierra Madre, Mr. Van Iersel exemplified the American Dream, raising his family after he left military service, volunteering with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, and remaining an active member of the community.

I encourage you to honor his extraordinary legacy and vote "yes" on H.R. 4761.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize Louis Van Iersel's unparalleled dedication to our country.

I urge passage of H.R. 4761.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4761.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER (SEAL) LOUIS "LOU" J. LANGLAIS POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3218) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 836 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, California as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3218

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER (SEAL) LOUIS "LOU" J. LANGLAIS POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221

State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, shall be known and designated as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3218, introduced by Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS of California.

Master Chief Lou Langlais served in the military for 25 years. He was in his final tour in Afghanistan when enemy fire shot down his helicopter, killing him and 29 other Americans.

I will ask my colleague and the sponsor of this bill, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, to share the incredible story of Master Chief Langlais, but I first want to urge Members to support this bill and name a post office after Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer Louis "Lou" J. Langlais. Hearing his story of lifelong service is inspiring, and I am hopeful that permanently naming the post office in the remembrance of his sacrifice will serve to inspire generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3218, which would designate the United States Postal Service facility that is actually on State Street in Santa Barbara as the Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis "Lou" J. Langlais Post Office Building.

Lou was a soldier and beloved family man. He dedicated his life to protecting our freedom and our country. This is an important bill not only for my community of Santa Barbara, but for the memory of a brave member of our armed services we lost way too soon. Naming the Santa Barbara post

office in honor of Lou Langlais is a fitting tribute.

Born in Quebec, Lou grew up on the central coast. He was an avid rock and mountain climber who spent much of his free time rock climbing some of California's most renowned and challenging locations, including Yosemite National Park and Joshua Tree National Park.

After graduating from Santa Barbara High School, Lou joined the Navy in 1986. He spent 3 years on a warship before being accepted into and graduating from SEAL training class 162 in February 1989. He was a member of the Navy Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs, and served in the Persian Gulf War with distinction and valor.

Then in 2000, Lou joined the highly selective Naval Special Warfare Development Group, where he eventually rose to become a troop leader in the Navy SEALs' elite Team Six before serving multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

During his 25-year military career, Lou earned many personal and unit decorations, including five Bronze Stars with Valor, the Purple Heart, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and three Presidential Unit Citations, as well as several other campaign and unit decorations.

It is also important to note that he is most remembered as a trusted friend, family member, and teammate for so many.

On August 6, 2011, Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Langlais was one of 30 Americans killed in action when their helicopter was shot down in eastern Afghanistan. At the time, he was serving what was supposed to be his very last deployment. He had plans to return home to his family and continue his service as a trainer in the Navy SEAL program. But alas, he made the ultimate sacrifice.

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Lou is survived by his wife, Anya, and their two sons, Gabe and Jake, who also have given so much for their country. This bill honors them for their sacrifice and perseverance in the face of tragedy.

As our community and Nation still mourn, I am proud to have authored this legislation. The naming of the Santa Barbara post office after Master Chief Lou Langlais is a fitting tribute and a way for Santa Barbara to remember and honor one of our own.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize the incredible achievements of Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer Lou Langlais as well as the ultimate sacrifice he made for this country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 3218.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.